

Pink and Grey

Ottawa occupation ends as students accept proposals

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Some people were good enough to say to me they liked the Bears last time, so perhaps I will tell you one or two more feary stories; but I will go back to the little-guy-looks-at-life-in-the-Coughyteria if you write in and tell me to. — C.W.B.

This time it's Jack and the Deanstalk, Part XXII. This Story So Far: Jack is a young lad who lives in a Jacquerie on the lands of Bron Mackarios (which means "blessed") in the kingdom of Louis the Umpteenth. He has planted — some time ago — a magic Deanstalk, which every day grows further and further into the sky. Jack wants to climb the Deanstalk and meet the fabulous Giant who lives in the clouds. At length — at considerable length — he is ready, one dark winter evening before Christmas, to do so. NOW READ ON.

Jack stumbled on through the darkness. He stumbled quite a lot, particularly on piles of newly-dug earth, pieces of steel hawser, electric cables, temporary barricades, cavernous gaping pits dug in the ground, and other such bostacles, for the Baron had a mania for Improving His Estate, a process which consisted (Jack thought of himself) of having at any given time some nine-tenths of it excavatory turmoil. No sooner did some new castle, tower, turret, barbican, flanker, orrillon, parapet, redoubt, contrefort or other such novelty appear complete, than one had on time to enjoy it, for work immediately started on something else. At last Jack came to where the great Deanstalk was. He heaved a sigh of relief; he had not encountered any of the Baron's Reeves, who patrolled the estate night and day, for the Baron was a careful man.

Jack started to climb the Deanstalk. He climbed for hours, perhaps even days, round and round the intricate windings of the Deanstalk. He had the feeling he was getting nowhere, but he persisted. Then, suddenly, he was in the Giant's hall. The Giant was seated at his desk eating porridge. "Well," he said, looking up "what do you expect me to do? Eat you?" "I always thought," replied Jack, "that was what Giants were there for."

"Ah" — the Giant gave a deep sigh, and looked misunderstood — "how little you small people understand about the true nature of Giants. Tell me, why did you plant the Deanstalk in the first place?" "To climb it and see you."

"Of course. And why did you want to see me?"

"I wanted to ask you questions. Why do Giants live in the clouds, for example?"

"Now wait a minute. If the purpose of this visit is merely to put me in the dock, so to speak, I don't see what useful purpose it can serve. Surely you can see that Giants don't like being asked that sort of question. I would have thought —" and at this point the Giant hitched himself up in his chair, straightened the crease on the knee of his trousers, and put on an expression of sincerity, eagerness and authority, while wrapping his left hand round his wrist, "I would have thought that what both Giants and human beings wanted at this moment, was conversation."

Yes, conversation. We have to get down to the real basic issues that affect us all, or perhaps — and the Giant looked very serious indeed — "there won't be any porridge."

Jack felt somewhat confused. He had always thought that conversation included asking questions, but then perhaps the Giant didn't mean quite the same thing by conversation, as he did.

"What I really wanted to know about" said Jack, desperately trying to get back to his main point, which had somehow got lost in the conversation (which was, Jack realized, the whole reason — now he understood — for having conversations) "was about the people who stole one of your clouds."

"Well," rumbled the Giant, "it was, you know, a Wrong Thing To Do. And when anyone does a Wrong Thing, a Giant has the right to eat him. However, I've got the cloud back. So I have decided, after some thought on the matter, not to eat them. Which is, I want you to understand, Very Good of Me. In fact, and the Giant became almost confidential "the Ordinary People Down There are going to think me foolish Giant for not eating them, and life is not going to be easy for me at all. I hope you appreciate that." And he paused for effectiveness. Jack looked appreciative. Which it is quite easy to do, really — all you have to do is think hard about being Not Eaten by someone who might eat you.

"Could I meet you" said Jack "again, and ask you some other questions?" "I don't really see," the Giant put on a puzzled look "what there is to ask, since after all I have Not Eaten the people. But if you want such a meeting, I'll agree to it." So Jack went home, feeling reasonably satisfied. It was only when he looked up at the Deanstalk from the bottom that he realised something. He would have to climb all the way back up the Deanstalk again to visit the Giant, and it might break down. Conversation was really not so simple as it seemed.

Next Instalment: The Porridge-Eating Contest between Jack and the Giant. Don't miss this thrilling episode.

Arts week delayed

This year the Arts faculty will have an arts week in January. As a prelude there will be some activity this week.

The princesses will be interviewed on Tuesday, while voting for arts queen will be later in the week. The results will not be announced until arts week.

At 8:30 on Thursday there will be a "Meet the Princesses" coffee house at Memorial Hall. The Princesses will be waiting on tables to enable students to meet them. Voting will be at 11 p.m. Arts students will be admitted free while others will be charged 25¢.

OTTAWA (CUP) — The occupation of the social science faculty at the University of Ottawa is over.

Students voted 174-30 last Wednesday afternoon to accept a faculty proposal offered Monday that differed little from the faculty position all along in the two-month negotiation process.

The students have demanded parity on all councils and committees of the faculty and its individual departments. The faculty originally countered with a proposal that offered committee parity (though not on the academic personnel committees) and a sliding proposal for council representation. It later updated its proposal to one-third across the board on councils and parity on all committees save the contentious personnel one.

The students accepted the faculty proposal after a three-hour session Wednesday afternoon. Over 200 angry students adjourned a four-hour plenary in the occupied wing Tuesday night after a searching and often bitter evaluation of the worth of their week-long occupation.

The plenary opened again on Wednesday afternoon following a morning of study sessions. The argument at plenary was a tactical one. No one liked the one-third proposal, indeed, it is binding only until June, 1970, and is regarded as a temporary settlement. The issue was simply that people were getting tired of the occupation and wanted to get back to classes.

Leaders were worried about occupation solidarity and feared a massive split if the strike continued. Appeals to factions to respect the democratic ethic fell on deaf ears and it was apparent enough people were willing to break the occupation if it did not end.

The disenchantment with the occupation led to a general acceptance of the 33 per cent proposals as an interim measure and leaders were willing to chalk up the whole affair to experience.

Both sides agreed not to vote Tuesday night and planned the study sessions to talk out the differences and come up with a unified proposal binding in all. They were unable to do so on Wednesday morning and after a stormy plenary decided not to "play the administration's game" by splitting themselves and accepted the one-third proposal.

The Tuesday plenary was called after social science dean George Buxton relayed the faculty proposal to the students. The faculty proposal was formulated at a teachers' plenary Monday which also voted complete confidence in Buxton's handling of the affair.

The teaching staff had rejected on Friday a student compromise on the personnel committees which would have given them 25 per cent of the seats on those groups.

Meetings over the weekend and on Monday between the student co-ordinating committee and joint committee of the university senate and board of governors had failed to come up with satisfactory formula aimed at ending the strike.

It is expected now that faculty will readily accept student proposals in five different areas of educational reform. The representation problem had been the deadlock in a long process of student-faculty negotiations over a massive report assembled by students after a two-day study session in early October.

Toronto students vote radicals to commission seats

TORONTO CUP — University of Toronto students elected four radicals last Tuesday to administration president Claude Bissell's top-level commission to recommend changes in university government structures.

The four elected students all want to replace the university's board of governors and senate with a one-tiered council composed almost entirely of students and faculty. In the radical proposal, administrators would fulfill the "neutral" role of civil servants and public control of the university would be confined almost entirely to finances.

The Commission of University Government was established by Bissell to recommend revisions in the University of Toronto Act, passed in 1906. The commission will have nine voting members: the four students, four faculty members and Bissell. Two board members will be seated but have no voting privileges.

The commission will begin accepting briefs in January and is expected to report next fall.

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